

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

WILLIE BAILEY, III,

Plaintiff,

No. CIV S-04-2067 GEB EFB P

vs.

J. WEDELL, et al.,

Defendants.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Plaintiff is a state prisoner proceeding without counsel in an action brought under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. This case proceeds on plaintiff's June 16, 2005 amended complaint against defendants Turella, Penner, and Howard for deliberate indifference to plaintiff's medical needs in violation of the Eighth Amendment. Presently pending is defendants' September 14, 2009 motion for summary judgment. Plaintiff has filed an opposition. Defendants did not file a reply. For the reasons stated, the court finds that the motion should be granted.

Defendants previously moved for summary judgment in this action. *See* Dckt. Nos. 76, 77, 78. With respect to those motions, the court found as follows: 1) defendant Penner was not deliberately indifferent to plaintiff's serious medical needs by refusing to order an MRI; 2) defendant Turella was not deliberately indifferent to plaintiff's serious medical needs by rescinding an order for a back brace or a soft shoe chrono, or in denying a request for physical

1 therapy; and 3) defendant Howard was not deliberately indifferent to plaintiff's serious medical
2 needs by deferring to the medical judgments of other physicians. Dckt. No. 105 at 11-16; Dckt.
3 No. 111. However, the court directed defendants to file another pretrial motion to address
4 plaintiff's arguments with respect to a second claim alleged in the complaint.

5 In his verified complaint, plaintiff alleges that each defendant intentionally
6 delayed plaintiff's medical treatment, which caused him to suffer for months and
7 resulted in permanent injuries. Plaintiff claims that this delay "was a direct
8 product of certain constitutionally deficient policies or practices" that were
9 "tolerated or ignored by the [CDCR] or independently [by] the medical
10 department." As plaintiff properly notes in his opposition briefs, defendants do
11 not address these allegations in their motions. Nor do defendants address these
12 allegations in their replies, as none were filed. The court could construe this as
13 defendants' concession that issues remains for trial. However, the seemingly
14 conclusory nature of the allegations in the second claim make it apparent that the
15 claim should be addressed by a properly-filed pretrial motion and not left for a
16 final pretrial statement or attacked in the guise of an in limine motion. Given the
17 court's need to manage its docket to eliminate or narrow issues so that only those
18 properly warranting trial proceed to trial, the court will grant defendants leave to
19 file a single motion that addresses plaintiff's second claim for relief against each
20 defendant.

21 Dckt. No. 105 at 17 (citations and footnote omitted). Accordingly, defendants filed the pending
22 motion for summary judgment, arguing in relevant part that the second claim is not cognizable,
23 and that defendants are therefore entitled to judgment as a matter of law. Dckt. No. 106 at 16-
24 18.

25 In opposition, plaintiff argues that his second deliberate indifference claim against
26 defendants is based on his allegations that defendants delayed plaintiff's initial back surgery
after it was discovered he needed it, and that defendants then delayed plaintiff's second back
surgery, which was required to correct a mistake that occurred during the first surgery. Dckt.
No. 114 at 3. However, careful review of plaintiff's amended complaint fails to reveal any such
allegations. Indeed, plaintiff alleged that he did not receive his initial back surgery until nine
months after he had a consultation with a doctor regarding the surgery. Dckt No. 14 at 4-5.
Plaintiff also alleged that the Attorney General's Office was contacted by the Prison Law Office
to find out whether plaintiff was scheduled for surgery. *Id.* at 6. Further, plaintiff alleged that

1 x-rays showed that one of the screws used in the first surgery was not lined up correctly, and
2 caused plaintiff extreme pain as a result. *Id.* at 7. Finally, plaintiff alleged he did not receive the
3 second surgery until five months after his first surgery. *Id.* at 5, 7. However, plaintiff's
4 amended complaint did not include any allegations linking defendants Penner, Turella or
5 Howard to the allegations regarding the delays in receiving the back surgeries. The amended
6 complaint did not allege any facts suggesting that defendants were deliberately indifferent to
7 plaintiff's need for back surgeries, nor did it allege any facts regarding defendants and their
8 involvement in ordering, scheduling or performing plaintiff's surgeries. *See id.* To the extent
9 plaintiff claims that defendants indirectly contributed to the delay in receiving either of his two
10 surgeries, for example, by not ordering an MRI, by denying plaintiff's request for physical
11 therapy, or by deferring to the medical judgments of other physicians, those issues have already
12 been adjudicated in defendants' favor. *See* Dckt. No. 105 at 11-16; Dckt. No. 111.

13 Thus, plaintiff's "Claim II," has either already been decided in defendants' favor, or is
14 otherwise not cognizable because it is not supported by factual allegations linking defendants to
15 a deprivation of plaintiff's constitutional rights. *See Johnson v. Duffy*, 588 F.2d 740, 743 (9th
16 Cir. 1978). As there are no further issues to be decided in this action, defendants are entitled to
17 judgment and this action should be closed.

18 Accordingly, it is hereby RECOMMENDED that:

- 19 1. Defendants' September 14, 2009 motion for summary judgment be granted; and
20 2. The Clerk be directed to close this case.

21 These findings and recommendations are submitted to the United States District Judge
22 assigned to the case, pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1). Within fourteen days
23 after being served with these findings and recommendations, any party may file written
24 objections with the court and serve a copy on all parties. Such a document should be captioned
25 "Objections to Magistrate Judge's Findings and Recommendations." Failure to file objections

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1 within the specified time may waive the right to appeal the District Court's order. *Turner v.*
2 *Duncan*, 158 F.3d 449, 455 (9th Cir. 1998); *Martinez v. Ylst*, 951 F.2d 1153 (9th Cir. 1991).

3 Dated: August 30, 2010.

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5 EDMUND F. BRENNAN
6 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
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